

treatment of United States and foreign personnel killed in the April 14, 1994, shootdown of two U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters by two U.S. Air Force F-15 fighters over Iraq. Following the incident, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry found it inappropriate to compensate the families of the Americans who were killed in the tragedy citing the Feres doctrine—a legal principle denying compensation for death or injury incident to military service.

However, Secretary Perry provided payments of \$100,000 to the families of each of the foreign nationals involved in the accident, in spite of the Feres doctrine. These voluntary payments, made under the Secretary's emergency and extraordinary expense authority were characterized as humanitarian gestures offered in recognition of the unique circumstances surrounding the incident.

It is time that we offer the same gesture to our own citizens who were involved. In the interest of fairness and justice, the law must be applied in an equal fashion. If it was appropriate to pay the foreign nationals involved, then it is also appropriate to pay the Americans. It is outrageous that the United States Government would treat British, French, and Turkish soldiers better than our own.

If enacted, H.R. 2986 will require the Secretary of the Treasury to make \$100,000 payments to the families of each of the Americans killed in the April 1994 Black Hawk fratricide incident. I urge my colleagues to support our troops and families by supporting this important relief measure.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, another week and still no campaign finance reform. We are now down to the final days before we adjourn for the year, if we don't take action now on campaign finance reform next year will be too late.

On Monday of this week, I spent the day on several University campuses in my district. I had an opportunity to meet with students who are concerned about a variety of issues, including student financial aid, the environment and their future job prospects. I was struck, however, by the feeling among students that their voice doesn't matter. They believe that the influence of money on the political process means only the rich and powerful special interests have access to Members of Congress. I have tried to do my part, through meetings like the ones I held Monday, to change that perception. But, we will not be able to completely change that image until we adopt comprehensive campaign finance reform.

These students represent the future. If we expect them to be the leaders in the next century, we must give them hope that they can make a difference. To achieve that goal we must pass campaign finance reform, and we must do it now.

Mr. Speaker, the people of western Wisconsin refuse to accept "no" as an answer. Please do not let them down, schedule a vote on campaign finance reform.

THE FURTHER POLITICIZATION OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member hopes that his colleagues might read and they remember the following editorial from the October 11, 1997, edition of the Omaha World-Herald next month when the Nobel Peace Prize is formally awarded. It will be used as an unreasonable and irresponsible point of pressure or attack on the American use of landmines in the demilitarized zone on the Korean peninsula by both domestic and foreign critics.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 11, 1997]

NOBEL DECISION RAISES QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT PEACE IN KOREA?

The Nobel committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to the international committee promoting a treaty to halt the use of anti-personnel land mines. A more appropriate recipient, in our opinion, would have been the U.S. government for its 44 years of preventing war along the demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea.

Mention of Korea is appropriate in connection with the Nobel committee's decision. By honoring the anti-mine campaign, the Nobel people have implicitly condemned one of the tools used by U.S. forces to prevent invasion or infiltration of South Korea by troops, saboteurs or assassins from the north.

President Clinton had asked treaty sponsors to exempt Korea, allowing the U.S. to sign the treaty and still maintain the option of using mines along the DMZ. When his request was refused, he said the United States could not sign the treaty.

So the awarding of this year's Nobel prize to the anti-mine campaign is a slap at Clinton, too, and a slap at the hundreds of thousands of American troops who have rotated through the U.S. divisions in Korea since the 1950s. (During part of that time, the head of the anti-mine committee, Jody Williams of Putney, Vt., was campaigning against U.S. efforts to keep Central America from going communist.)

The United States, of course, is not the cause of the land-mine problem to which Princess Diana called attention. She went to Angola and hugged children who had been maimed by exploding mines left over from that country's civil war.

U.S. forces don't scatter land mines at random, leaving them to be exploded years later by grazing animals or playing children. That's the behavior of terrorists, dictators and guerrilla groups. Iraqi military units. The Viet Cong. East African warlords. Balkan terrorists.

By contrast, America, like most other western nations, is pledged to follow the 1947 Geneva Convention, which requires armies to record the placement of mines and remove the devices when no longer needed.

The United States halted exports of land mines years ago, even to its allies. U.S.-made mines are manufactured to defuse themselves after a certain time, usually 60 days. Older mines in the U.S. inventory are being destroyed. Fewer mines are being used in Korea, although the United States wants to keep the right to use them.

In Korea, 35,000 U.S. troops augment the South Korean army in holding back the million-man army of the north. They guard a 487-square-mile demilitarized zone that stretches more than 100 miles through rugged mountains, steep valleys and forested hills.

Many times over the past four decades, infiltrators from the north have tried to slip across the DMZ into the south. Minefields stand in their way. Some people say that the United States must give up such defenses to persuade outlaw nations and terrorists not to scatter mines across the countryside. This argument fails to account for the fact that the United States is a superpower to which other nations, often by default, have entrusted certain responsibilities. Giving up a tool for carrying them out is more difficult for a superpower than for nations that have fewer international obligations.

Our suggestion that the United States receive a Nobel prize was only half-serious. The award is generally reserved for individuals and institutions.

In terms of contributions to the peace of the world, however, America's role on the Korean peninsula has few parallels. Because South Korea was kept out of a Soviet or Chinese orbit, democracy and free enterprise took root there. Because Japan didn't need to arm itself against a Soviet or Chinese threat based in South Korea, Japan emerged from its post-war recovery as a peaceful industrial democracy. Other nations around the Pacific rim took inspiration from the economic success of South Korea and Japan. Much of the region is now prosperous, non-communist and free.

The careful use of mines played a role in that success. It's unfortunate that the anti-mine people will now have yet another forum, the Nobel ceremonies in December, from which to paint the U.S. position as irresponsible.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOSPICE OF SAINT JOHN, LAKEWOOD, CO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a high honor and privilege to allow my colleagues to know of the wonderful work being done by the Hospice of Saint John in Lakewood, Colorado. Twenty years ago, in 1977, this program was founded by Fr. Paul von Lobkowitz, a priest of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, to serve the sick and the dying. This month the Hospice of Saint John celebrates twenty years of caring. In those years its staff of professionals have cared for more than 12,000 dying patients and their families.

The Hospice of Saint John was only the second in-patient hospice program to be opened in the United States. It has stood the test of time in a medical environment that favors the bigger corporations. The Hospice of Saint John continues to be independently run and directed by the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and its professed and lay members.

The Hospice of Saint John was the first hospice program in the state to provide care for AIDS patients when many other programs of the day refused to care for them. Today the Hospice's commitment to AIDS patients and their families and friends remains as strong as ever, as does its care for every one of its patients. Many of its patients include young men and women whose lives are cut short by ravaging diseases. In its twenty years the Hospice of Saint John has never turned away a single patient for a lack of financial means.